

# Sutton Veny War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**21126 GUNNER**

**J. BRYANS**

**AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY**

**5TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 25**

*Until The Day Dawns  
And Shadows Flee Away*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Gnr. J. Bryans is located in  
Grave Plot # 18. H. 4. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## John BRYANS

John Bryans was born in Toowoomba, Queensland in 1893 to parents William & Margaret Bryans (nee Young). He was a 22 year old, single, School Teacher from Caxton Street, Petrie Terrace, Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1915 with the 9<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade, 35<sup>th</sup> Battery of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 21126 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. Bryans of Caxton Street, Petrie Terrace, Brisbane, Queensland.

Gunner John Bryans embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1916. Gunner Bryans had been admitted to the Ship's Hospital twice while at sea – 29<sup>th</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1916 & again 29<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1916. Both times he was in the Ship's Hospital for 3 days suffering from Influenza.

Gunner John Bryans was passed out as a Driver on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 1916.

Driver Bryans was written up for an offence – Absent without leave from “No. 2 Camp Boyton from midnight 26<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 to tattoo on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 22 hours” He was forfeited a total of 3 days' pay.

Driver Bryans proceeded overseas to France from Southampton on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1916. He was transferred from 23<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Brigade and taken on strength with 3<sup>rd</sup> A.D.A.D. on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Driver Bryans was transferred to 12<sup>th</sup> Army F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) from 3<sup>rd</sup> Division Details from 4<sup>th</sup> February to 9<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 pending absorption in 11<sup>th</sup> F.A.B.

Driver Bryans was taken on strength with 11<sup>th</sup> F.A.B. and posted to 111<sup>th</sup> Bty. in France on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 1917.

Driver Bryans was remustered as Gunner at his own request on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1917.

Gunner Bryans was on leave to UK from Belgium on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 & rejoined from leave in France on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 1917.

Gunner Bryans was reported “FAB With Unit” on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1918.

Gunner Bryans was on leave to UK from France on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1918. He was sent to Hospital sick whilst on furl in UK on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1918.

Gunner John Bryans was admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1918 with Influenza – seriously ill.

Gunner John Bryans died at 2.45 a.m. on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for Jack Bryans, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Gunner John Bryans was buried on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 at 3 p.m. in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 18. From the burial report of Gunner John Bryans - *Coffin was polished elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours. The funeral was preceded by a Firing Party and Band from No. 1 Command Depot, Sutton Veny. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades acted as Pall bearers. 3 Officers and about 80 N.C.O.'s and men followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented. Also attending the funeral were friends – Miss V. Evans (129 Mortimer Street, Trowbridge) & Mrs F. Pepler (Back Street, Trowbridge).*

Gunner John Bryans was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Bryans's father – Mr W. Bryans of Moggill Road, Taringa, Brisbane. (sent February, 1922 & October, 1922)

Gunner J. Bryans is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 16.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

The CWGC lists Gunner John Bryans, 21126, of 11th Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, as the son of William and Margaret Bryans of Maggill Rd, Taringa, Brisbane. Born at Toowoomba, Queensland.

(56 pages of Gunner John Bryans Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives.*



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

**BRYANS** – In loving memory of our darling son and brother, Gunner Jack Bryans, who died of influenza and pneumonia in the Sutton Veney Military Hospital, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1918.

Just when his life was brightest,  
Just when his hopes were best,  
His country called-he answered,  
Now in God's hands he rest.

Inserted by loving father and mother, sisters and brother.

**BRYANS** – In proud and loving memory of our dear brother and uncle, Gunner John Bryans, who died of illness at Sutton Veney, England, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1918.

His life's work ended, and his duty nobly done.

Inserted by Beck and Jack Irwin and children.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Qld – Wednesday 5 November, 1919)*

---

## ROLL OF HONOUR

**BRYANS** – In loving memory of our dear son, Gunner John Bryans, who died at Sutton Veney, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1918.

Far away from all who loved him,  
In a hero's grave he lies,  
And thought his body resteth  
His memory never dies.

Inserted by loving father and mother.

**BRYANS** – In loving memory of our dear brother and uncle, John, died of illness at Sutton Veney, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 1918.

Fold him, Father, in Thine arms,  
And let him henceforth be  
A messenger of love between  
Our broken hearts and Thee.

Inserted by R. and J. Irwin and family.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Qld – Friday 5 November, 1920)*

---

## ROLL OF HONOUR

**BRYANS** - In loving memory of our darling son, Gunner Jack Bryans, who died on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 1918, at Sutton Veney.

Nothing hut a memory as we journey on,  
Longing for a smile and a face that's gone,  
But at the heavenly gate he'll meet us  
With the same sweet loving smile,  
For we are only parted just for a little while.

Inserted by his loving father and mother

**BRYANS** - In loving remembrance of our dear brother and uncle, John, died in England, November 5th, 1918.

Lovingly remembered

Inserted by Beck, Jack, and children

*(The Brisbane Courier, Qld – Saturday 4 November, 1922)*

---

### Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone at St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

*(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)*

Gunner John Bryans does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### *Until The Day Dawns And Shadows Flee Away*



**War Graves at Sutton Veny** (Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Gunner J. Bryans' Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*